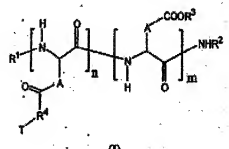
Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A polyamino acid comprising aspartic units and/or glutamic units, characterized in that at least some of these units bear side chains comprising at least one α-tocopherol unit.

2. (Previously Presented) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 1, characterized by the general formula (I) below:



(I)

in which:

- R^1 represents H, a linear C2 to C10 or branched C3 to C10 acyl group, or a pyroglutamate;
- R^2 represents H, a C2 to C10 linear or C3 to C10 branched alkyl, benzyl or a terminal amino acid unit;
- R^3 is H or a cationic species selected from the group consisting of:
  - metallic cations selected from the subgroup consisting of sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium,

- organic cations selected from the subgroup consisting of:
  - amine-based cations,
  - oligoamine-based cations,
  - cations based on polyamine,
  - cations based on amino acid(s) selected from the class comprising cations based on lysine or arginine,
- and cationic polyamino acids selected from the subgroup consisting of polylysine and oligolysine;

- R^4 represents a direct bond or a "spacer" based on 1 to 4 amino acid units;
- A independently represents a $-CH_2-$ (aspartic unit) or $-CH_2-CH_2-$ (glutamic unit) radical;
- n/ (n+m) ranges from 0.5 to 100 mol%;
- n+m ranges from 3 to 1000;
- T represents an α-tocopherol unit.

3. (Original) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the α-tocopherol is of natural origin.

4. (Original) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the α-tocopherol is of synthetic origin.

5. (Previously Presented) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the polyamino acid comprises an α-L-glutamate or α-L-glutamic acid homopolymer.

6. (Currently Amended) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the polyamino acid [[s]] comprises an α-L-aspartate or α-L-aspartic acid homopolymer.

7. (Currently Amended) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the polyamino acid [[s]] comprises an α-L-aspartate/α-L-glutamate or α-L-aspartic acid /α-L-glutamic acid copolymer.

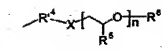
8. (Previously Presented) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the distribution of the aspartic and/or glutamic units that bear side chains comprising at least one α-tocopherol unit is such that the polymers are either random, or of block type, or of multiblock type.

9. (Previously Presented) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that their molar mass is between 2000 and 100 000 g/mol.

10. (Previously Presented) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the molar degree of grafting is between 3% and 70%.

11. (Currently Amended) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polyamino acid bears at least one graft of polyalkylene glycol ~~type linked to a glutamate and/or aspartate unit.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at least one graft of polyalkylene glycol comprises the formula (II) below:



(II)

in which:

- R'^4 represents a direct bond or a "spacer" based on 1 to 4 amino acid units;

- X is a hetero atom chosen from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

- R^5 and R^6 independently represent H or a linear C1 to C4 alkyl;

- n ranges from 3 to 1000.

13. (Currently Amended) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 12, wherein the ~~characterized in that the~~ at least one graft of polyalkylene glycol ~~type linked to a glutamate and/or aspartate unit~~ is a polyethylene glycol.

14. (Previously Presented) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the molar percentage of grafting of the polyalkylene glycol ranges from 1% to 30%.

15. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising at least one of the polyamino acids as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 2, and at least one active principle.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the active principle is selected from the group consisting of: a protein, a glycoprotein, a polysaccharide, a liposaccharide, an oligonucleotide, a polynucleotide and a peptide.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the active principle is a small organic molecule that is hydrophobic, hydrophilic or amphiphilic.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical and is administered via the oral, parenteral, nasal, vaginal, ocular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraperitoneal, intracerebral or buccal route.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that it is in the form selected from the group consisting of a gel, an emulsion, a solution, a suspension, micelles, nanoparticles, microparticles, a powder and a film.

21. (Previously Presented) The composition is claimed in claim 15, characterized in that it is a colloidal suspension of nanoparticles and/or microparticles and/or micelles of polyamino acids, in an aqueous phase.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that it is in the form of a solution in a biocompatible solvent and in that it is capable of being injected subcutaneously, intramuscularly or into a tumor.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical and is injectable and in that it is capable of forming a deposit at the site of injection.

24. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 15 [[16]], wherein the composition is used in the preparation of medicinal products,

wherein said medicinal product is formulated for oral, nasal, vaginal, ocular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraperitoneal or intracerebral administration,

wherein said active principle is selected from the group consisting of proteins, glycoproteins, proteins linked to one or more polyalkylene glycol chains, peptides, polysaccharides, liposaccharides, oligonucleotides, polynucleotides, small organic molecules that are hydrophobic, small organic molecules that are hydrophilic and small organic molecules that are amphiphilic.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The polyamino acid of claim 2, wherein the sum of n+m ranges from 30 to 300.